

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 0064

USIAC

USINFO FOR IOP/M/IPS, IBS, INE

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ROME FOR VOA

GENEVA FOR MEPC

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - PRESS REVIEW JANUARY 14

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TALKS IN JERUSALEM AND SPECULATION

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ON SADAT'S RESPONSE TO ISRAELI PLAN ARE MEDIA'S MAJOR CONCERN.

HAARETZ SAYS REDUCTION OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY

PRESENCE EAST OF CANAL REMAINS OUTSTANDING PROBLEM. DAVAR

SAYS JERUSALEM BELIEVES KISSINGER WILL RETURN

WITH POSITIVE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE. DAVAR COMMENTATOR REMARKS THAT AVOIDING DEFINITION OF FINAL OBJECTIVE IS KEY TO PROGRESS IN ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. YEDIOT AHARONOT SAYS TROOP SEPARATION AGREEMENT HAS ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES FOR BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT. HAARETZ WARNS THAT EGYPT WILL WAGE WAR OF ATTRITION IMMEDIATELY AFTER ISRAEL WITHDRAWS TO MITLA AND JIDI PASSES. WRITING FOR HAARETZ, DR. NAHUM GOLDMAN IS CONVINCED THAT MOMENTUM GENERATED BY ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE AGREEMENT WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO ESTABLISHMENT OF MORMAL RELATIONS. POLITICAL PARTIES' POSITION REGARDING NEXT COALITION GOVERNMENT REMAINS MAJOR ISSUE. PRESS REPORTS ALIGNMENT ADVISED NRP THAT WIDE COALITION GOVERNMENT IS OUT OF QUESTION. HAARETZ EDITORIAL URGES ALIGNMENT LEADERS TO EXPEDITE FORMATION OF NEXT GOVERNMENT. MAARIV REPORTS DR KISSINGER WILL MEET WITH OPPOSITION LEADER BEGIN AT SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE.

2. TROOP SEPARATION: (A) HAARETZ WRITES:

"THE ISRAELI PRPOSAL WHICH KISSINGER CARRIED WITH HIM CONFORMS TO THE IDEAS WHICH DAYAN DISCUSSED WITH KISSINGER IN WASHINGTON... BUT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION EGYPT'S REACTION. THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM WAS AND REMAINS THE DILUTION OF EGYPTIAN FORCES EAST OF THE CANAL. ALTHOUGH THE MAIN ENGOTIATIONS (ON TROOP DISENGAGEMENT) WILL BE CONDUCTED IN GENEVA...VARIOUS ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED IN JERUSALEM...OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT BEFORE GOING TO GENEVA, KISSINGER HIMSELF WILL SUGGEST PROPOSALS SINCE HE BELIEVES THAT IT WILL BE EASIER FOR THE (EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS) TO ACCEPT HIS PROPOSALS RATHER THAN EACH OTHERS..." MARGALIT FURTHER ADDS: "EGYPT HAS NOT ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THAT IT MUST UNDERTAKE TOWARD ISRAEL...WHAT IT IS GOING TO DO WITH THE CANAL, RESIDENTS OF THE CANAL VILLAGES ETC..."

(B) DAVAR (HISTADRUT)WRITES:" ... DAYSN'S PLAN FOR TROOP SEPARATION...WAS CHANGED TO ACCOMMODATE EGYPTIAN REQUEST...AS CONVAFED BY DR. KISSINGER. JERUSALEM BELIEVES KISSINGER WILL RETURN WITH A POSITIVE EGYPTIAN REACTION...IF IN FACT HE COME BACK WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT IN EGYPT, ISRAEL AND PERHAPS WASHINGTON (AFTER UNCLASSIFIED

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IT GETS MOSCOW'S CONSENT) ON AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WILL BE MADE. THE MILITARY DELEGATION IN GENEVA WILL WORK OUT THE DETAILS..." ESHED CONTINUES: "IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT KISSINGER WILL MAKE FURTHER TRIPS TO THE MIDDLE EAST...DESPITE HIS CONCERN THAT THIS PREVENTS DIRECT ISRAELI-ARAB NEGOTIATIONS... AND EXCLUDES ACTIVE SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS."

(C) YEDIOT AHARONOT COMMENTS: "THE EGYPTIANS WILL PRESENT THE TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS AN EGYPTIAN WILL PRESENT THE TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS AN EGYPTIAN SUCCESS. THE TRUTH IS THAT THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE SHARED BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT. ISRAEL WILL GAIN THE FOLLOWING: (A) US GUARANTEE TO

GIVE ISRAEL POLITICAL SUPPORT...AND ADDITIONAL MILITARY SUPPORT, I.E. MORE SOPHISTICATED ARMS FOR THE IDF WHICH WILL LESSEN THE DANGERS INHERENT IN THE EGYPTIAN PRESENCE EAST OF THE CANAL...ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WILL ENABEL RELEASE OF LARGE NUMBER OF RESERVISTS...(THUS FOILING) EGYPT'S TACTIC OF ECONOMIC-MILITARY PRESSURE ON ISRAEL..."

(D) MAARIV WRITES: DAYAN IMPRESSED ON DR. KISSINGER THE IMPORTANCE ISRAEL ATTACHES TO THE ISSUE OF REDUCTION OF EGYPTIAN FORCES EAST OF THE CANAL...ALL THE TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY WERE CARRIED OUT IN COORDINATION WITH PRIME MINISTER MEIR...ISRAEL SUGGESTED THAT HEAVY EGYPTIAN ARMAMENT BE PULLED BACK TO THE WEST BANK TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT WOULD MAKE ISRAELI FORCES DEPLOYED EAST OF THE CANAL ARE BEYOND SHOOTING RANGE...ISRAEL AGREES THAT ITS FORCES EAST OF THE CANAL ALSO BE REDUCED...ISRAEL IS ALSO WILLING TO LEAVE THE ISSUE OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAEL SUPERVISION PATROLS FOR A LATER STAGE...AND IS WILLING TO GIVE UP THE ENTIRE IDEA IF THE US IS WILLING TO GUARANTEE TO ISRAEL THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT WILL NOT BE BREACHED BY THE EGYPTIANS (E.G. MOVING OF MISSILES IN 1970)...ISRAEL SEES THIS ISSUE AS ONE BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE US RATHER THAN A PROBLEM BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT..."

(E) DAVAR COMMENTS: "...AVOIDING DEFINITION OF THE FINAL OBJECTIVE...IS THE KEY TOWARD PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES. BECAUSE THE ARABS, THE AMERICANS AND THE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO SHELVE THE FINAL 'MAXIMUM PLANS,' THE 'ROGERS PLAN'...AND THE JARRING MEMORANDUM AND THE LUN WITHDRAWAL IN STAGES PLAN'.... UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL OF WHICH LET TO IMPASSE...IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO THAW THE STANDSTILL...BUILDING STEP BY STEP.

(F) PRESS HIGHLIGHTS LIKUD CHAIRMAN DR. RIMALT'S SURPRISE THAT GOI HAD AGREED TO TALK ON TROOP SEPARATION WITH SYRIA, SINCE ACCORDING TO RIMALT "SYRIANS DO NOT SIT ON OUR SIDE OF 1967 LINES."

(G) HAARETZ WARNS EGYPT WILL WAGE WAR OF ATTRITION ON ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF IDF'S WITHDRAWAL EAST OF CANAL. AMONG THE DANGERS, LIVNEH LISTS: "FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE REVOLUTION, MOSCOW HAS BECOME A RECOGNIZED PARTNER TO MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS...GENEVA IS MEANT TO GIVE MOSCOW A GLOBAL LEGITIMIZATION OF THIS ON THE PART OF WASHINGTON. IF ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM SINAI, THE USSR WILL BECOME THE MAJOR POWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST...IRAN WILL BECOMES A SOVIET SATELLITE...SOVIET POSITIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY IMPROVED...IF ISRAEL'S AIR AND NAVAL STRENGTH IS NOT ENHANCED....BAM EL MANDEB AND THE SUEZ WILL BECOME A SOVIET-CONTROLLED STRAITS...IF THE US DOES NOT GIVE IRAN ACTIVE AID...THE PERSIAN GULF'S FUTURE WILL BE SIMILAR...THE DESTINY OF PAKISTAN ALSO HANGS IN THE BALANCE..."

3. NEXT GOI: HAARETZ EDITORIALIZES: "ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT

NO GOVERNMENT CAN BE FORMED WILWOUT THE ALIGNMENT AND THAT
THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT CAN CONDUCT THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS
WITH DR. KISSINGER...IT WILL BE A FATAL MISTAKE IF THE
ALIGNMENT LEADERS DELUDE THEMSELVES IN THINKING THAT
THE FORMING OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT IS NOT AND URGENT MATTER..."
SIGNED MOSS.
JONES

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